

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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February 15, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER, INC.**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source contract. It is the Department of Mental Health's (DMH's) intent to enter into new sole source contract negotiations with the Families and Schools Together, Inc. (FST), located at 2801 International Lane, Madison, WI 53704.

FST will provide training, consultation, and technical assistance in support of implementing the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program within selected Los Angeles County agencies, schools, and directly-operated clinics as a result of the DMH budget curtailment and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) transformation. Developed by FST, FAST is one of the Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) PEI Plan that DMH is implementing. DMH is providing training, consultation, and technical assistance for this practice in order to implement the EBP as quickly as possible so that there is seamless delivery of services to its consumers, clients, and family members.

FAST is an EBP that uses principles of experiential learning (not lecturing) that is proven to develop healthy behaviors, build social support, and foster a nurturing environment. It is a multi-family group, school-based program delivered by local collaborative teams and designed to engage parents/caregivers, connecting them with their schools in a way that centers on the needs of their children and the functioning of the family to increase protective factors and the likelihood of the child being successful in the home, school, and community.

DMH intends to implement all five versions of the FAST program: Baby FAST (ages 0-3), Pre-K FAST (ages 3-5), Kids FAST (grades K to 5), Middle School FAST

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(grades 6-8), and Teen FAST (grades 9-12). Each of the five FAST program versions conforms to one of the developmental stages in a child's life. In this way, FAST can be used as prevention or early intervention at any point in the family's lifecycle. FAST teams will help families through participation in experiential learning groups and parent support groups. Children in the Middle School FAST and Teen FAST programs will participate in separate youth groups as well.

FAST was developed by Lynn McDonald, Ph.D., M.S.W., a family therapist and parent. FST is a Wisconsin-based nonprofit organization that owns all FAST program versions and licenses programs to delivery partners who use the proprietary programs to serve the interests of schools and children across the nation and around the world. Staff from FST will be conducting the FAST training. The consultation and training services under the proposed sole source contract with DMH will be fully funded with MHSA PEI funding. The term of the consultant agreement will be from Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 through FY 2012-13 with an option for two (2) one-year extensions.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two (2) weeks, DMH will proceed with negotiating the sole source contract. DMH will work closely with both County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing a new agreement with the FST.

MJS:RK:DM:lb

c: Health Deputies  
Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
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